

III. REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 39, 44-48, 52 and 82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for reasons set forth in the Action. The claims have been amended for clarity so as to overcome this ground of rejection.

Claims 77-78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Asai (US 2003/0011468) for reasons set forth in the Action.

Various ones of the claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the cited art, namely, claims 38-52 and 75 over Ali (US 2003/0197679) in view of Larson WO 02/47365, claims 53-56, 58-59, 61-65, 71-74 and 76 over Abkowitz (US 2001/0041973), claim 57 over Abkowitz in view of Patwari (US 20020087300), claim 60 over Abkowitz in view of Someya (US 6546231), claims 64 and 69-70 over Parulski (US 7146179) in view of Ali, claims 66-68 over Abkowitz in view of Larson, claims 79-80 over Asai in view of Larson, claim 81 over Ali in view of Larson, and claim 82 over Asai in view of Abkowitz for reasons set forth in the Action.

As to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103, various ones of the claims are amended and the following argument is presented to distinguish the claimed subject matter from the teachings of the cited art, considered individually and in combination, thereby to overcome the rejections and to show the presence of allowable subject matter in the claims.

With respect to the independent claims 38 and 50, discussed by the examiner in Point 14 of the Office Action, these claims are rejected for being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Ali in view of Larson. Ali discloses a keypad 750 which includes soft keys 870 and fixed keys 880. The fixed keys 880 each have a fixed function. The soft keys 870 each have a function that is programmable and indicated by one of the soft key icons 820 located next to the soft keys 870 (paragraph [0068]).

Paragraph [0070] of Ali indicates that a display mode function is provided which "rotates the display 740 through all four orthogonal orientations, including portrait mode (Fig. 8B) and landscape mode (Fig. 8C), with each press of the corresponding key" ("rotation of the display" appears to refer to the rotation of the information icons 811, 813, 815 and 817 on the display 740). However, Ali does not provide an illustration of the display 740 in each of the four orthogonal orientations. It only provides illustrations of two of the orientations in Figs. 8B and 8C. It can be seen from Fig. 8B and 8C that when the display 740 is rotated from portrait mode (Fig. 8B) to landscape mode (Fig. 8C), the soft key icons 820 are also rotated, but remain next to their respective keys. That is, the location of the soft key icons 820 are not interchanged when the display 740 is "rotated".

The examiner has stated in the office action that Ali discloses a device which comprises "first and second input keys associated with a display" and "a display for displaying information content with a first orientation, first control content, adjacent the first input key, indicating the function of the first input key, and second control content, adjacent the second input key, indicating the function of the second input key", as recited in independent claim 38 of the present application.

The examiner has acknowledged in paragraph 14 of the office action that Ali does not disclose "a processor, for controlling the display, configured to vary the first orientation of the information content to a second orientation and to interchange the first control content and the second control content, such that the first control content is adjacent the second input key and the second control content is adjacent the first input key", as required by claim 38. However, the examiner states in the office action that "Ali only shows tilting the device to one side" and that "Ali desires to maintain the order of the input keys". In so far as the examiner's position is understood, it appears to be the examiner's position that Ali presents this teaching because it would be troublesome to the user to be required to learn a new configuration of the layout for each mode. It appears from this passage that the examiner is implying that Ali provides a suggestion

to interchange the soft key icons 820 when the orientation of the set of information icons 811, 813, 815 and 817 is changed.

This position of the examiner is traversed respectfully in view of the following argument. Ali teaches that when the set of the information icons 811, 813, 815 and 817 are rotated, each of the soft key icons 820 remains adjacent its soft key 870. That is, the soft key icons 820 are not interchanged. For example, it can be seen that the soft key icons 820 are not interchanged when the information icons 811, 813, 815 and 817 are rotated from the Fig. 8B orientation to the Fig. 8C orientation. Ali provides no teaching that it would be desirable to interchange the soft key icons 820 in any way. In this sense, the teaching of Ali contradicts the teachings of the embodiments of the invention described in the presently claimed subject matter and supported by the present Figs. 5A to 5D. Ali merely teaches that the location of a soft key icon 820 should be fixed against a particular soft key 870. Ali, therefore, teaches directly away from interchanging first and second control content, as recited in present claim 38.

The examiner has combined the teaching of Larson with Ali in the rejection of claim 38, and relies on Larson to disclose rotation of a screen in landscape mode. The examiner then concludes that it would be obvious to rotate the Ali display so as to maintain the same order of the input keys, thereby to provide an easy-to-learn device regardless of the position of the device. However, it is urged that Larson does not appear to disclose anything that could be considered to be "control content" on a display and consequently provides no disclosure or suggestion that first and second control content on a display should be interchanged, as recited in claim 38.

It would facilitate an understanding of the examiner's position if the examiner would indicate a passage in Ali that discloses or suggests that it would be desirable to interchange soft key icons 820 when the information icons 811, 813, 815 and 817 are rotated.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that embodiments of the invention as defined by claim 38 and corresponding method claim 50 are novel and non-obvious in view of the disclosures made in Ali and Larson.

To overcome the rejections of the independent claims 53, 61, 62 and 71, the claims are amended. Thus, claim 53 is amended to recite a:

"device, comprising:

a display having a surface area and having a variable display area which defines the proportion of the surface area available for displaying a first type of information content;

a user input device; and

a processor configured, in response to input from the user input device, to reduce the size of the variable display area from a first area to a second, smaller, area, such that the proportion of the surface area available for displaying the first type of information content is reduced; wherein information content displayed, before the reduction, in a portion of the surface area of the display encompassed by the first area but not the second area is displayed within the second area after the reduction".

Corresponding amendments have also been made to corresponding independent method claim 61. Support for these amendments may be found from in the present specification at page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 21 and in Figs. 6A to 6C. In particular, it can be seen in Figs. 6A to 6C that as the display area 26 is reduced, the alphanumeric characters in the display area 26 are rearranged. For example, it can be seen that the characters "_ _ /V \" in the first line on Fig. 6A do not fall within the reduced display area 26 in Fig. 6A, and that these alphanumeric characters have been rearranged such that they fall within the reduced display area 26 in Fig. 6C.

With respect to the rejections of the independent claims 53 and 61 (discussed in section 15 of the office action) under 35 USC 103(a) for being unpatentable over Abkowitz, it is noted that these claims were included in the subject of an interview reported below:

REPORT ON INTERVIEW

An interview was conducted by telephone on January 28, 2008 between Examiner Marcos Torres and Applicant's representative David Warren to discuss matters raised in the Final Office Action of December 4, 2008.

Claim 53 was discussed primarily, with discussion also of the claims 61, 62 and 71 which recite limitations similar to claim 53. The examiner noted that the presently claimed invention lets us emulate various devices; and that claim 53 sets forth three basic elements, namely, the display, the user input device, and the processor which is capable of changing the size of a display area. Also, the examiner noted that the cited art of Abkowitz (US 2001/0041973) can emulate other devices and has the capability of changing the size of a display.

The Examiner considered the "device" of claim 53 to be the management device 250, the "display" of claim 53 to be the display of the management device 250, the "display area" to be the area of the display of the management device 250 that is used to emulate the display of a target device, and the "processor" to be a processor of the management device 250.

The examiner was questioned as to how, in the Office Action, he considers Abkowitz to disclose a processor that is "arranged to incrementally change the size of the display area while displaying the information content wholly within the incremented display area", as set forth in the claims. It was pointed out to the examiner that, in Abkowitz [paragraph 0048], there is a teaching that in situations in which there are large numbers of target devices, or where the display of the managing device is not

sufficiently large, it may be desirable to display images of less than all of the target devices, and to provide user interface controls for selecting which images to display. This is analogous to a scrolling process.

In contrast, the present drawing Figures 6A, 6B and 6C show a rearrangement of the displayed symbols to preserve all the information in the set of symbols provided (by way of example) for a text messaging situation, as the available display area grows smaller from Fig. 6A to Fig. 6B to Fig. 6C. It was pointed out to the examiner that the claim language "wherein the whole of the information content in the display area is displayed by the display" and "displaying the information content wholly within the incremented display area" related to the inventive feature set forth in the present Figures 6A, 6B and 6C. It was urged that this distinguishes the invention, as set forth in the claims, from the teachings of Abkowitz.

The examiner stated that he believed that there was a distinction between the claimed subject matter and the teachings of Abkowitz. However, the claim language did not set forth enough detail for distinguishing what the present invention was doing as compared to what Abkowitz was doing. The examiner said that the present claims only mentioned a change of size, and that this was not enough to distinguish over Abkowitz. It appeared that a claimed limitation as to a rearrangement of the elements of the image (such as the symbols of the text-messaging) might satisfy the examiner.

However, the examiner indicated that he could make no commitment until he would have the opportunity to study the response to the Final Office Action. While the interview provided discussion of claim interpretation, no agreement was reached.

END OF INTERVIEW REPORT

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment of the claims, claim 53 now clearly recites that the device is provided with a processor that is configured, in response to

input from a user input device, to reduce the size of a variable display area from a first area to a second, smaller area, such that the proportion of the surface area allocated to displaying a first type of information content is reduced; wherein information content displayed, before the reduction, in a portion of the surface area of the display encompassed by the first area but not the second area is displayed within the second area after the reduction.

It is noted that Abkowitz teaches a scrolling process [0048], a virtual device implementation [0043], and the use of a succession of mini-screens [0049]. But there appears to be no disclosure of translation of the displayed image along a circular path, without rotation of the image (sometimes referred to as nutation), as depicted in present Figs. 4A-4D and 5A-5D. Also, there appears to be no disclosure of an automatic rearrangement of displayed information content when the size of a display area is reduced, as shown in present Figs. 6A-6C. Abkowitz appears to enable the user, by use of menus and the dragging by a mouse, to position items of interest in a useful arrangement manually, but this does not suggest the above-noted automatic accommodation of the display contents to the needs of a user. Accordingly, this reference is believed to lead one away from the practice of the present invention, as set forth in the claims.

Independent claims 62 and 71 have been amended in a similar fashion to independent claims 53 and 61. and are therefore considered to be allowable for the same reasons.

With respect to the rejections of independent claims 77 to 80, claim 77 is amended to recite a:

"device, comprising:

a display having a display area allocated to displaying information content, the information content including alphanumeric characters being displayed over a plurality

of

lines;

a user input device; and

a processor configured, in response to input from the user input device, to reduce the size of a display area allocated to displaying information content, in order to change the number of alphanumeric characters that are displayed in a line of the information content, while displaying the whole of the information content, without increasing the number of alphanumeric characters in the displayed information content, and without reducing the number of alphanumeric characters in the displayed information content."

Support for these amendments may be found in the present specification from page 8 at line 19 to page 9 at line 21, and in present Figs. 6A-6C. In particular, Figs. 6A-6C illustrate the size of a display area being reduced and the number of alphanumeric characters in a line of information content being changed, without increasing or reducing the number of alphanumeric characters in the displayed information content.

The foregoing claimed subject matter is believed to be distinguishable from the cited art in view of the foregoing argument.

In section 10 of the office action, the examiner has rejected independent claims 77 and 78 under 35 USC 102(e) for being anticipated by Asai.

The examiner has made particular reference to Figs. 8 and 9 of Asai. Asai relates to a radio paging receiver with a display in it. The display station 17 displays a grid of $M \times N$ or $2M \times 2N$ characters (see Figs. 8 and 9 and paragraphs [0057] and [0058]). When more characters are displayed on the display, the character size decreases. More characters fit in a line on the display, because the area on the display that is taken up by the characters as a whole remains the same.

Amended independent claim 77 differs from Asai in that it recites that the size of a display area allocated to displaying information content being reduced in order to change the number of alphanumeric characters that are displayed in a line of the information content. In contrast, in Asai, the size of the display area allocated to displaying information content is not reduced. See, for example, Figs 8 and 9 of Asai, where the display area that is allocated to displaying characters is the same in both figures.

Furthermore, independent claim 77 recites that when the reduction takes place, the number of alphanumeric characters that are displayed does not increase or reduce. This is clearly not the case in Asai, where, when the display changes in accordance with the illustrations in Fig. 8 and Fig. 9, the number of alphanumeric characters that are displayed by the display clearly increases.

It is urged that there is no teaching or suggestion in Asai that would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to produce anything that would fall within the scope of independent claim 77. In particular, it is of note that Asai is concerned with enabling the user to see more of the characters contained in a message by reducing the size of the characters displayed on the display. Asai is not, however, concerned with enabling the user to rearrange the existing characters on the display, without increasing or reducing the number of characters displayed on the display.

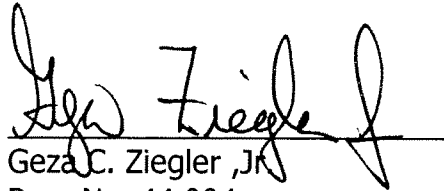
Therefore, embodiments of the invention as defined in independent claim 77 are therefore novel and non-obvious. Independent claims 78 to 80 are considered to be novel and non-obvious for the same reasons advance for amended claim 77.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the

Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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